Rice University, Spring 2017 **Instructor: Jacqueline Nalett**
LPAP 143 Syllabus **Jazz/Hip Hop Dance**

"Jazz, itself is a feeling, an honest, personal feeling, inspired by soulful music. The source of jazz is inside. Jazz cannot be found in a pose, or a leap, or a bump, or a grind. It's not a series of 'jazz steps'. Jazz must be an honest expression of a musical soul. Jazz dance is moving with that feeling through a safe and effective technique. Never force an extension or back arch. Nothing should hurt. Technique is like tuning an instrument; learn to tune your body just right, so that when you go to play it, it's beautiful. Never stop moving. Even when you are standing still, feel the movement inside." - Luigi, jazz dance legend, NYC 1993

"Hiphop is very abstract, it's very undefined. When you hear that drummer's beat, you just got to go with it." -Rosie Perez, choreographer, actress

Office Hours: By Appointment **Class Time: MW 2:30-3:35**
Location: Rec Center Dance Theatre **Email: jacqueline.a.nalett@rice.edu**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory course geared towards those with little or no jazz/hip hop dance experience. Students should also keep in mind that because there is only one of these classes offered, there will be a variety of ability levels within the class. The instructor is aware of this and structures lessons that will accommodate each individual's technique level. Students can expect to learn the fundamentals of dance technique through warm ups, center and across the floor combinations in various styles such as lyrical, street, musical theatre, music video choreography, and fluid jazz/modern fusion. Students will also learn anatomical terms, jazz and hiphop dance history and dance vocabulary through handouts they can access on OWLSPACE. Students are expected to attend class with an open mind and a willingness to actively participate every day.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Development of correct dance technique, alignment, flexibility, strength, stamina, centering and transference of body weight.
- Improvement of neuromuscular coordination: precise control and placement of body parts.
- Development of dynamic qualities of movement required for clarity, focus, and expressiveness.
- Improvement of movement memory: ability to pick up movements faster and remember them longer.
- Improvement of musicality/timing in dance: learning about rhythm, tempo, meter and phrasing to develop rhythmic skills in dance.

EVALUATION/GRADING:

Daily performance, participation, improvement in technique goals	**65%**
Final Exam	**20%**
Dance Journal / Concert Write-Up	**15%**

Course Requirements

Daily Performance/Goal Improvement: Attendance and full participation are critical to the strength and development of skill and technique in dance. In the studio, each student will be evaluated according to his or her level of participation, focus, application of corrections given and overall improvement of course objectives.

Final Exam: The final will consist of dance sequences that have been worked on in previous classes. They be graded on the following: the ability to remember dance sequences without following other dancers; movements on correct counts; overall flow, dynamics, and energy. There may also be a written component for these exams.

Concert Attendance: You will be required to attend the Rice Dance Theatre Show. It is April 13, 14, 15 at 7:30 pm in the Dance theatre. Student Admission is $5. You will write up a 1 page response to the show to turn in. Typed, double-spaced, 300 words. You will sign in at the show as proof of attendance.

Dance Journal: You will turn 1 journal. It must be typed, double-spaced 350-400 words.

Journal is due in class. I do not accept emailed journals because I write comments on your paper and return to you. If you forget to bring it to class the day it is due, you will have to give it to me the following class and it will have 10 points off per class late.

LPAPs are for credit:
All LPAPs are now for 1 credit hour, and they do count toward a student's GPA. All undergraduates have to take at least 1 LPAP in order to graduate.

Class Attire:

Dance clothes are required for jazz/hiphop dance.
Your grade will be penalized for inappropriate attire.
NO street clothes allowed.
NO jeans, slacks, jeggings, pajama jeans.
NO socks or stockings allowed.
NO big jewelry allowed in class.
Hair MUST be secured back from face and off of neck.

Dance clothes include: leotards, tights, leggings, tank tops, fitted t-shirts, bike shorts, sweats, loose, stretchy pants cut off above the ankle. **(All pants need to fall above the ankle.)** If you find that your feet are sticking to the floor, you can purchase soft, flexible dance footwear or jazz shoes, (soft, split sole only, no dance sneakers). You may also purchase a type of footwear that goes by the names, "Foot Undeez", "Foot Thongs", or "Dance Paws" if you find that your feet are sticking to the floor too much.
Places you can purchase foot thongs or jazz shoes: www.discountdancesupply.com, various dance supply stores in Houston, foot thongs are available at HEB in the footcare aisle for $8.
Regardless of what you wear on your feet, you must be barefoot at the very beginning of class during the warm up. This is so that your feet can grip the floor and not slide when we stretch.
Hair MUST be secured back from face and off of neck.

Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to actively participate while in attendance. During the course of the semester, students are allowed two "free" absences. Should a student miss an additional class, she/he will need to arrange to make up that missed class at a time and place that is agreed upon by both the student and the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate conversation with the instructor to discuss the make up, and an agreement must be reached within two weeks of the absence. If a student fails to make up a missed third or fourth class, his/her final grade will drop by one or two grade letters.

Students will not be allowed to make up more than two absences.
>>>>>>>>>**Five total absences**, including those that were made up and no matter their circumstance, will result in a failing grade for the course. See instructor for make-up options.
**if you are sick and contagious, please do not come to class. <<<<<<<<<<<<<

Honor Code Violations:

All students are expected to uphold their pledge to the Rice Honor Code. Any student caught cheating on an exam or written assignment will be reported to the Chair of the Honor Council, and an investigation will ensue. Any questions that you may have about what constitutes an honor code violation in this class can be directed to the instructor. Instructor Specifics: written work should be done in the student's own words. No copying from any source will be allowed in Ms. Nalett's class.

ADA Policy Statement

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center.

Tardiness

Entering class after I have called the roll is considered tardy. Two tardies equal an absence.

Class Observation Guidelines:

You may find yourself sitting out of a class if you are really late or if you are sick or injured (no more than 2 allowed per semester). Sitting out does not mean you are not involved in class. You will be taking notes on what we are doing. You are not allowed to sleep or use your phone or laptop or do work for another class while sitting out. If the instructor finds you doing any of these you will be asked to leave and marked as absent for that day.

Other Notes:

Please remember to bring water to class. Hydrating the body during a workout is necessary for optimum performance. No gum chewing for your own safety while dancing.
Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class.
No recording of class with any electronic device is allowed without teacher's permission.

Spring 2017- Important Dates

Jan. 9	First Day, Discuss syllabus
Mar.13-17	Spring Break
Apr. 12	Journal **DUE IN CLASS**
Apr. 17	Concert Response **DUE IN CLASS**
Apr. 19	Dance Final
Apr. 19	LAST DAY OF CLASS

Journal Guidelines

Use this journal as a chance to reflect on your semester of dancing. How has your ability grown? What new things have you learned about dance or about yourself? How did the actual classes compare with what you thought the class would be about in the beginning of the semester? Did you achieve your goals? Did you have fun? How would you rate you current dance ability and would you take another class to continue improving? How will you be able to use your learned skills in your future activities? You are free to add anything else in relation to your semester in this class, in this journal.

Teacher bio: http://www.uh.edu/cota/theatre-and-dance/about/faculty/nalett/

Jazz examples: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRl1M72CG_4A_ycX9fj0bBTM8WvDhkY3V